the cities in Karnataka where BSNL's Broadband Service, Dataone has been launched are Bangalore, Mysore and Hubli. The other cities that are planned to be covered within next three months are Belgaum, Bellary, Bijapur, Davangere, Gulbarga, Hassan, Mangalore, Raichur, Shimoga,Tumkur, Udipi and Uttar Kannada.

(b) No, Sir, There is no proposel at present to extend it to all taluka offices in Karnataka.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

Improvement of telephone services in J&K

3734. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the main reasons for unsatisfactory telephone services especially in the border areas of Jammu & Kashmir;

(b) the steps taken to improve the telephone services;

(c) whether there is any proposal to install higher capacity exchanges and laying Optical Fibre Cables in border areas of J & K; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEELAHMAD): (a) The telephone services in border areas of J & K are usually working satisfactorily. However, the constraints in providing and maintaining the services are as under:—

1. Poor power supply.
2. Tough Climatic conditions with heavy snow fall over a long period.
3. Restrictions for providing limited and full mobile services.
4. Difficult and inaccessible terrain.
5. Insurgency.
6. Army operations.
7. Difficulty in getting land and building.

(b) Following steps are being taken progressively to further improve the services:—

(i) Connecting all exchanges on reliable digital media.

(ii) Conversion of C-DOT 256 P RAXs (Rural Automatic Exchanges) into AN RAXs (Access Network-Rural Automatic Exchanges).

(iii) Conversion of SBM (Single Base Module) exchanges into RSU (Remote Switching Unit) exchanges.

(iv) Centralized fault booking at SDCC (Short Distance Charging Centre)/LDCC (Long Distance Charging Centre).

(v) Provision of maintenance free battery sets and Engine Alternators for back-up power supplies.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The list of exchanges planned for installation/up-gradation is given in the Statement-I (*See* below) and the Optical Fibre routes planned is given in the Statement-II.

Statement I

List of Telephone Exchanges planned for installation/upgradation in border areas of J&K

(i) New Exchanges

Sl. No.	Name of Exchange	Planned capacity
1	Ursoo, Uri	256 lines
2	Batalic, Kargil	256 lines
3	Davraj, Poonch	256 lines
4	Bhawani, Rajouri	256 lines

(ii) Up-gradation of existing Exchanges

Sl. No.	Name of Exchange	Present exchange capacity	Capacity after up-gradation
1	Arnia	1 K RSU	1.5 K RSU
2	Chadwal	1 K RSU	1.5 K RSU
3	Jourian	1 K RSU	1.5 K RSU
4	Surankot	1 K RSU	1.5 K RSU
5	Nowshera	1 K SBM	12 K MBM

Statement-II

Proposal for laying of Optical Fibre Cables in Border areas of J & K following routes have been envisaged for laying of Optical Fibre Cable

Sl. No.	Route
1	Baramula-Uri
2	Baramula-Boniyar
3	Kupwara-Sogam
4	Kupwara-Trehgam
5	Kupwara-Karalpura
6	Akhnoor-Ambgarota
7	Kathua-Samba
8	Dabliar-Miransahib
9	Akhnoor-Ganderwah
10	Vijaypur-Gurasalathia
11	Akhnoor-Sohal
12	Chadwal-Marheen
13	Akhnoor-Kachi Chawani, Jammu
14	Chadwal-Hiranagar
15	Ramgarh-Vijaypur
16	Bathoni-Dongi Brahmana
17	Mendhar-Mankot
18	Mankot-KG-Jullas
19	Nowshera-Chokian
20	Bhawani-Lam
21	Dangri-Nadyal
22	Achakamal-Kargil
23	Channi Gund-Kargil